shortly after their marriage.

To buy the farm, Mr. Hoye contracted to deliver 8,000 bushels of wheat over a period of years, which he was able to do because the crops were good. The first house on the Hoye farm was a small frame house with a lean-to. The large frame house which still stands was built in 1912. A large barn was built a few years before that. The Hoyes had a herd of dairy cattle and sold the milk in Grand Forks. They had the first milking machine in the area. Iver Hoye and Bill Hotvedt together owned the first gasoline powered threshing outfit in the locality. Mrs. Iver Hoye died on May 1, 1918. Iver Hoye died on July 5, 1931.

Morton Hoye was the eldest son. He was born on December 14, 1880. He was the township assessor for four years, served on the local school board, was on the board of directors at the Farmers Elevator Company, and was the president of the local Farmers Club. He donated the land on which the community hall was built.

Morton Hoye and Eleanor Amundson, a neighbor girl, were married on July 1, 1921. They had two daughters, Mary Ann and Eileen. For a number of years, the Hoyes had a number of customers in town to whom they sold eggs, cream, butter and dressed chickens. Every Saturday they took the produce to town for these people. Morton Hoye died on December 14, 1935.

On June 8, 1938, Eleanor Hoye married Herman Kieliszewski, who had been born in Wisconsin on April 16, 1902. They had a son, Leo Kieliszewski, born on August 28, 1939. Herman died on March 29, 1963, and Eleanor then moved to East Grand Forks, where she lived until her death on March 6, 1970.

Mary Ann Hoye was born on October 17, 1928 in Grand Forks. She was graduated from the East Grand Forks high school in 1946 and then attended Concordia college. She was married to Donald Ciekinski on October 8, 1947. He was born in the village of Argyle, Minnesota on December 9, 1923. He served four years in the United States Marine Corps on the islands of Tarawa, Gilbert, Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa, and took part in the occupation of Japan. He was honorably discharged in January 1946. The Ciekinskis are the parents of five children: Michael, Thomas, Peter, Daniel and Kari Jo. They reside on the Iver Hoye farm where Donald is engaged in the sale of used trucks and automobiles.

Eileen Evonne Hoye was born on March 28, 1931. She was graduated from the East Grand Forks Central High School and from the University of North Dakota with a degree in foods and nutrition. She took her dietetic internship and received her Master of Science degree at the University of Iowa in 1953. She was married to Robert David Wurden in July 1953. He was born December 2, 1924 and was a graduate of the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston, Minnesota. They have four children — Roberta, Barbara, and Jon. They reside on the former August Wurden farm in Bygdland township, where they have their farming interests.

Leo Wayne Kieliszewski and his wife, Sharon, have three children: Scott, Lean, and Mary Ann. He is employed in Minneapolis and they live in the town of Wyoming, Minnesota.

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**Tabor Village and Township History**

The exact date of arrival of first settlers is not known. However, it is thought to have been about 1877.

The first postmaster was John Mikulecky, whose place was about one mile south of where the village is now located. The first Catholic church was also located in that vicinity. It was demolished by a tornado in 1895. Later another structure was built where the present church now stands. John Mikulecky later moved to Thief River Falls, where he spent the rest of his life. He never married. It is said of him that he once hauled a litter of little pigs on a wheelbarrow from Tabor to Thief River Falls. Quite an accomplishment as one of his arms was smaller and shorter than the other one.

Frank J. Chernosek, an individual who was somewhat better educated than some of the other early settlers, served the community as a justice of the peace and legal advisor. Chernosek was second postmaster in Tabor. He was later succeeded by John Stepan, and later by Mr. Baloc, and later by Andrew Palya. Then Joseph Brda served as postmaster until the post office was permanently discontinued.

A bank building was built and started doing business in 1917. Andrew Palya was the cashier. The post office was then in the bank. The bank closed during the Depression, in May 1929. It was demolished in 1973. Bank employees besides the cashier were Miss Dorothy Kerestec and Mike Kocisko.

Frank Krava operated a harness shop about 1909, together with Joe Chapek. Paul Myerchin had a barbershop in 1915.

Danial Walder had a blacksmith shop from 1919 to 1940, and lived in a large square house a short distance from the shop. He passed away in 1940.

As late as 1883 some of the people living in or near Tabor walked to Angus to get their mail. There was no road between Angus and Tabor.

Somewhat later a post office was started with Mr. Stepan as postmaster and Anton Sirek delivered the mail to the new post office from Angus by foot or horses. There was no junk mail at that time, so the volume was small and no parcel post.

The first store in Tabor was started by Joe Bren about 1886. He arrived here from Hopkins in 1883. Mr. John Stepan managed the store for Bren. A few years later the store was bought by Andrew Palya Sr. and managed by a Mr. Baloc. a relative.

In 1908 Andrew Palya Jr. assumed full control of the business. He also handled International Harvester farm machinery. Previously, Mr. Frank Klu zaw managed the machinery business in the village. Andrew Palya Jr. kept the store which was well stocked with all sorts of general merchandise, until 1915 when the store burned. After the fire, Palya kept a smaller stock of groceries in another building. He retired to East Grand Forks in 1940.

The rural mail route from Angus west was started about 1906. Ole Iverson was the first carrier. He was paid a royal salary of 700 per year.

The first telephone line from Angus west for a distance of 12 miles was built in 1908, about the same time a line was built from Warren into the same territory and extended three miles south of Tabor.

The first church built on present site of Tabor was built by the Presbyterians in 1891 on the northwest corner of Section 17.

The village was named after a city in Czechoslovakia, the birthplace of some of the first settlers. Consequently, the township was given the same name.

Tabor township is located within the territory in which every odd numbered section was given to any railroad company on promise that they would build a line. Consequently, the land was sold by the railroad company to the settlers who were then arriving in large numbers from 1878 to 1890.

Another store operated by a Mr. Johnson, circa 1904, also burned about 1909. John Klu zaw, from 1898 to 1903, operated a blacksmith shop. His son Arthur took over after the death of his father in 1903 and stayed in the business until about 1920. About the same time a Mr. Hanglik also had a blacksmith shop in Tabor. Other stores in Tabor were later operated by Jacob Sirek. Later Joe Generaux built another store in 1930, which is still in operation. The last blacksmith in Tabor was operated by Danial Walder, from 1920 to 1940.

Frank J. Zejdlík came here from McLeod County in 1879, and took a tree claim on southeast quarter of section 6. With him came his parents and grandparents who passed away in 1904 at the ripe old age of 103 years. They were Karl and Rose Zejdlík. Frank J. Zejdlík later owned a grocery store in East Grand Forks.
The Lutheran Congregation had services in the homes of the members from 1884 to 1898 when the church was built and dedicated.

As a Bicentennial project the community has planned to place a historic marker on the site where the first post office stood, one mile south from the Lutheran Church.

The John Kluzek family together with Joseph Machal came here from Cleveland, Ohio. Kluzak settled on northwest quarter of section 19 and Machal settled on southwest quarter of section 20 in 1879.

Matt Vanek landed at Fisher’s Landing in 1880. He came here from St. Paul. He worked on the Keystone Farms for a time. When he married Mary Jachoutek in 1884, he settled on southeast quarter of section 8.

From 1935 to 1940, Daniel Walder operated a dance hall in the Novacek store building. For a time previous to this time Ben and Milen Piker had a grocery store in that building.

Joe Novak also had a store in the village about 1915, later taken over by Dave Grossman, who also had a dance hall behind the store. Both buildings burned about 1930.

The Frank Wavra family came from New Prague about 1880 and operated the first threshing rig in the community.

Many of the early settlers worked off the farm to earn living expenses. The nearest and only places of employment were the Keystone Farms and the railroad from Angus north to Stephen.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

The village of Tabor, in western Polk County, took its name from Tabor, about 70 miles south of the capital city of Prague, in western Czechoslovakia. The Minnesota Taborites and parishioners of Holy Trinity have been mostly of Czech and Slovak origins. The earliest settlers in the area included Frank Kovařík (1880), Joseph Trefny (1881), Jacob Gust (1884) and Jacob Novak, mentioned as early as 1882 with no specific date of arrival.

In its people, then, the beginnings of the parish may be traced to the early 1880’s. In February 1881 Father Pribyl came from Chicago to serve settlements of Bohemian Catholics in Minnesota. He made his first visit north in March of this year, and continued the missionary trips to Tabor until about 1888. He was based in the Montgomery-New Prague area in southwestern Minnesota. During his visits Father Pribyl offered Mass and administered the sacraments at the homes of Frank Kovařík, Jacob Novak and the school house near which the church was later built. These were temporary, missionary arrangements.

Even though the pioneers disagreed about the location for their first house of worship, they began to build a chapel in 1886 on the Eidelbes pasture land about a mile south of the present Tabor village. When still in the rafter stage of construction, a tornado destroyed this green-wood structure.

At about the same time Vaclav Novotny donated $200 which was used for the purchase of 40 acres of land from the St. Paul, Minneapolis, Manitoba Railway Company. This determined the present site of the parish. The land was soon parceled out to the people for cultivation, and the proceeds were to go into a building fund. This proved too slow. A loan of $400 was made, and Jacob Novak mortgaged his farm to help raise the funds necessary for the second attempt in building a church. Inspired by this action, and under the leadership of Father Slatinsky of Vesselle, North Dakota, the settlers met in 1889 and agreed to donate $50 each and came up with the sum of $600.00.

On Wednesday, November 13, 1889, the decision to build was made. This date has since been accepted as the date of the beginning of the parish. The men mentioned in this connection were Vaclav Novotny, Thomas Trefny, Frank Svoboda, Frank Kovařík, Thomas Osvald, Martin Devorak, Frank Judyovsky, Martin Kotrub, Jan Straka, Vaclav Dudr, Jan Gust, Frank Wavra, Jacob Novak, Frank Zejdlik, Vaclav Holub, Frank Gust, Matej Judyovsky, Joseph Eidelbes and Vaclav Biskup.

Work, as well as finances, became an essential need. Each pioneer donated six days of work and those who worked longer paid $1.59 a day in “overtime” — overtime in those days. The church was completed in 1890 and dedicated to St. Wenceslaus. (One report says that the dedication took place in 1893.)

Missionaries came and went in rapid succession. These priests are mentioned for the period of 1893-1899: Ignatius Lager, Patrick Henrick, M. Sengis, C. J. Augustinsky, M. Miklaszewski, T. L. Rabsteinek and L. Naturski. In 1900 Father John Rech became the first resident pastor. He rented the house which later became the property of Frank Holub, Sr.; he planned and supervised the construction of the first parish rectory.

On May 17, 1900, Father Rech had the parish incorporated under the title, “The Holy Trinity Congregation of Tabor.” Bishop James McColtrick of Duluth, the Vicar General Father Joseph Buh, Father John Rech and the two parish trustees, Joseph Stengl and Frank Zejdlik, signed the document. The parish received its present title at a later date.

Beginning in 1902, Father Joseph Gaydousek served as pastor until 1905. After his departure three priests followed one another in quick order. They were Joseph Gregor, John Mershalek, John Vanicek. Father F. Simonik arrived on March 23, 1909. He remained a little less than three years. (When he left, he donated the small bell which still hangs in the steeple and bears his name.) In 1911 Father W. Koerner took over and was followed a year later by Father F. J. Just. On May 26, 1913, Father John Berger came directly from Bohemia to be pastor of Holy Trinity. His pastorate covered a record period of 16 years.

During Father Berger’s time the church was enlarged, a greenhouse built, improvements made in the rectory. He liked the outdoors and loved to hunt; keeping bees, however, proved his principal hobby.

During the years 1929-1933, Father Carrell Gross, a native of Moravia like Father Berg, served as pastor. He came to Tabor by way of South Dakota and Canada; reportedly he preferred to be in the United States. During a vacation time to his homeland Father William Klinkhammer of East Grand Forks took his place, and is said to have gotten to know the people of Tabor as well or better than any of the men who had been in the parish. Father Gross returned, and Father F. B. Tomanek, 1933-1940, succeeded him. Father Tomanek gained the reputation as a man of action and a builder. His “dream,” the Parish Hall, was completed in 1934 at an estimated cost of $6,000. Father August L. Zellekens, who offered his first Mass in Tabor on Ash Wednesday, 1940, became the next pastor of Holy Trinity. A native of Frankfurt, Germany, he had been an assistant at St. Bernard’s, Thief River Falls, and pastor of St. Vincent’s Church. Plummer. At first reluctant to come to Tabor, he swung into action immediately with strong parish support.

The initial steps toward the replacement of the old church had already been taken. There were other needs as well. The parish still carried a debt of $2,300; a loan of $4,000 helped to pay for the new rectory, completed in 1940. The old debt was liquidated within a few years and a building fund started for
the new church. In 1951 the pastor and some of the parishioners made a survey of the financial resources of the parish. (The men named in Father Zellekens' report are: Robert Hendrickson, Albert J. Kovar, William Kresl, Harold Kasprick, Emil Pribula, William Stengl, Mike Ovsak, Paul Pribula, Stephen Vanyo, Sr., John A. Kuzel and Frank Novak, Jr.) Pledges from all parishioners followed the survey and proved very promising. On January 15, 1953, the general contract was awarded to Albert Johnson of Pequot Lakes, following the approval of architectural plans which had been drawn up by William Dreher of St. Paul. All of this came under the supervision of Bishop Francis J. Schenk, Father Zellekens and the trustees, George W. Gust and Joe Generoux.

On Sunday, January 25, the parishioners assembled the last time in the old church. The following day, under the direction of Stanley Stengl, the dismantling of the church began and was completed by February 7, 1953. By doing the work themselves, the parish had saved $1,000 in removal costs and realized $1,600 in materials sold. Construction began on April 15, 1953, with the Parish Hall as the temporary place of worship. On Septuagesima Sunday, 1954, a happy parish community and pastor found themselves in the new church for worship for the first time. Bishop Schenk blessed and dedicated the Church on April 1, 1954. Auxiliary Bishop Leo Dwarschak delivered the sermon.

The cost of the Gothic structure came to $130,000; of this amount $104,000 covered the church proper, the balance went for heating, electrical and plumbing installations. Donations from the parishioners provided the church with the necessary materials for the communion railings, chimes, etc. The parish societies provided some of the other major items, such as the baptismal font and the Stations of the Cross. Frank J. Brda and William Stengl remodeled the old altars, assisted by men of the parish. The parish had a debt of only $30,000, since paid in full, and the joy of an "Old World" church for worship.

Father Zellekens died in 1957 while on vacation to his native land, Frankfurt, Germany. Father John Merth succeeded him as pastor and remained till January 9, 1969, when Father Roger Grundhaus took on the pastoral duties along with his work as chancellor of the diocese. Father Arno Gustin, OSB, became the pastor on August 4, 1975.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TABOR

The village of Tabor got its name from a city in Czechoslovakia, so the Tabor church got started by Slovak people in the Slovak language. A colorful history, in Slovak, was compiled by George Ferencik Sr., in 1939 when the church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. This history was translated into English twenty-five years later by Rev. Daniel J. Adamiek for publication. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the church was held in 1964, at which time a booklet was published recording all the history and important events up to that date. On the 16th of August 1964 was held a diamond jubilee with services in both Slovak and English, with several of the former pastors attending. Mrs. Anton Pulkrabek (Mary), daughter of Thomas Stinar, Sr., who was one of the pioneer founders, narrates it in a more condensed form. Thomas Stinar, lived to celebrate his hundredth birthday and departed from this earth shortly before he reached his hundred and first. George Ferencik Sr. passed his ninety-eighth birthday before he was laid to rest with God. The following is part of the history as compiled by Mary Pulkrabek, with a few omissions to conserve space.

In the spring of the year 1883 four families moved from Minneapolis and settled near Tabor. There were no roads, no transportation and no telephone. Walking was their only means to get anywhere. All the work was done by one or two oxen and by human hands. Being of hardy pioneer stock and with the help of God their first thoughts were about finding a place to worship God together. That same year they organized meetings in their respective homes. From 1884 to 1887 many new families followed and joined in their worship services. In 1888 the first communion services were held at the Tom Kerestes home, with Rev. Karl Hozek. In November 1889, their first meeting of the church was held with Rev. Karl Hauser of Minneapolis conducting the services and business meeting. At this meeting it was decided to start the congregation under the name of Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church of Tabor. The first officers were elected as follows: Thomas Kerestes, president; Andrew Ferencik, secretary; Andrew Palys, treasurer.

Charter and pioneer family members were: George Benda, George Botko, Andrew Chervenak, Andrew Ferencik, George Ferencik, John Grega, John Jancik, Thomas Jancik, James Kerestes, Andrew Kmeick, Mike Kocisko, John Mizisin, George Ondurko, Andrew Palys, Andro Palya, Thomas Palya, George Ritoch, John Slusar, Adam Soltis, Andrew Soltis, Andrew Stinar, John Stinar, Thomas Stinar, Andrew Zipoy, John Zipoy, Michael Zipoy.

The construction of the church was started in the spring of 1898 and was finished the same year. There was no minister in the congregation at that time. Thomas Kerestes served as lay reader. Twice a year a minister was called from Minneapolis to serve communion. In 1917, the Warren, Radium and Tabor congregation got together and called Rev. Martin Hauser, who served as pastor for five years.

On July 30, 1929 the congregation suffered a great shock and loss. The church was blown down by a tornado, destroying everything but the bell and altar vessels. It was decided to erect a new church building on the old site and construction began late in the fall and the new building was completed in the spring. Dedication services were held on June 1, 1930 which marked a day of celebration, great joy and a congregational dinner.

From 1930 to 1945 Rev. Daniel J. Adamiek served communion in Slovak twice a year, coming from Minneapolis. After 1939, with the help of St. Mark's Church in Grand Forks, we called on their pastors. They were: Rev. Jensen, Rev. Stump, and Rev. Brockus. At that time our services were held in English. Over the period of years when we did not have a full time pastor, we were grateful for the help given our church by seminary students and various pastors and laymen in the area so that the Word and Sacraments were made available to all. In 1947, we decided to call a resident pastor and got the Rev. Dr. William Gable from Rocky Boy Indian Mission in Montana. Dr. Gable served us until his retirement in June of 1957. Under Pastor Gable we affiliated with the Northwest Synod, which later merged with other church bodies to establish the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) of which we are now a member.

Pastors serving us since 1957 were the Revs. Frank Mayer, Robert Sorensen, James Behnke, Jon Ellefson and Rodger Ericson. Our present Pastor is Rev. Charles Stephens. Together with the Zion and Elim churches of Alvarado we comprise the Alvarado-Tabor parish and employ the services of the same pastor.
HISTORY OF TABOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
By Morris Maruska

The first Presbyterian Czechoslovakian settlers in Tabor were John and Joseph Bren, who came from Hopkins, Minnesota, in 1883. In 1889, Mrs. A. E. Brush of Angus invited the people of Tabor to attend a Sunday school which she had organized. That summer through the efforts of the synodical, Drem Adams, after whom Adams Presbytery was named, Vac-tav Dosa, a theological student from New York arrived and served one summer. A new granary on the Joe Bren farm served as the meeting place. Everyone in the community was welcome and many who professed different beliefs came. In the fall of 1889, Rev. Pisek came from New York and organized the church with twenty members. He baptized eleven children. In 1891, having received a loan of $400 from the National Missions and by donating time and money, the first church in Tabor was built. Carpenters were John Brantl and John Kluzak. Some of the ministers who served were: Voholek, Bazota, Koukol, and Dobias. Rev. Dobias was the first resident minister, installed in 1896. In 1899 Rev. Vaclov Vavrina was installed and served until 1904. After he left, the church was served by students from seminaries or by Joseph Vavrina, a layman. In 1915, Rev. Steel was installed and took up residence in the newly purchased manse, paid for by raising crops on a rented piece of land. The Ladies Aid was organized and presented a three-act play that winter.

In 1922, Rev. Frank Sintak was installed. The services from 1922 to 1944 were mostly in the Czechoslovakian language although, after a few inter-marriages, it was necessary to convert to English for the benefit of those who couldn’t understand Czechoslovakian. In 1944, upon resignation of Rev. Sintak, the Angus-Euclid-Keywest-Tabor Parish was formed and Rev. Irving Thompson served all four churches. In 1951 the Tabor Congregation merged with the Angus Congregation. Ministers who have served recently are: Rev. James Wetherspoon 1948-1956; Rev. Kayton Palmer 1957-1961; Rev. Vern Maxa 1962-1967; Rev. Calvin Daniels 1969-1973 and Rev. Russell Markhula 1973-

ARTHUR ARNOLD

The Arnold family arrived from Czechoslovakia in 1887 and lived for a time with the Joseph Kliner family two miles east and one and one-half miles south of the town of Tabor until the Arnolds completed building their own home a half a mile away across the fields. Both families stemmed from the same village of Tachlovice eight miles northwest of Prague and they were related. The Kliners were already well established in the community by a number of years when the Arnolds arrived and helped them settle on a 160 acre farm next to their own in section 22 of the township.

The father's name was John and his wife was a Kliner. He was born in 1849, but in age his wife was three years his senior. When they reached the community the ages of the couple's children were: Frederick 14, Rose 12, Blanche 3, and Arthur (Otokar) about one year old. Fred was known by the Czech equivalent of that name, "Bedrich", and Blanche (Bessie) was "Blazena". Fred married Anna Smany and raised six or seven children and spent his life farming a quarter-section or more of land, the twenty or more or less fields which he purchased.

Unless a family had plenty of extra time help such as grown boys and extra draft horses it was impossible in those years for a farmer to seed very many acres of a 160 acre farm because a walking plow or even a sulky plow would turn over only two or two and a-half acres per day using a pair of oxen or horses. Consequently, many farmers left large areas as sod meadow for cutting hay and for pasture. As a result, most small farmers eked out a bare existence due to the limited production of crops. Arnold owned a quarter-section at Tabor was that the area is a lowland with low spots remaining wet much of the summer until drainage ditches were excavated to reach the Red River.

Arthur Arnold, the youngest of the family, devoted most of his life renting out the family farm which he inherited, plying the trade of carpenter, of salesman, and operating a hotel in the village of Angus. He married Emma Buchholz and raised a family, some of whom are still in the area. He died of tuberculosis in the Crookston Sanatorium on March 20, 1933. Sister Rose married Edward Dostal, a Tabor farmer, in 1895 at the age of 20 and raised nine children: and Blanche married John Vavrina, a farmer, on February 9, 1904, who for one year worked the farm of his bride's father, John Arnold, until a position opened up to operate a newly constructed grain elevator by the Thorpe Grain Company at the Sherack railroad station nearby. This position John Vavrina held for a number of years while farming on the side. Later he gave up the elevator and concentrated exclusively on farming. In December 1912 he and his family of three children moved closer to Tabor where he had purchased 560 acres of farmland, retaining in addition some 360 acres of rental farms which he had been working at Sherack, and would continue to work. Later he purchased an additional 120 acres nearby.

Grandpa (John) Arnold's wife died in October 1904 of a coronary failure. Grandpa himself, rather than live alone, moved to live with his son, Fred, for seven years. After this, he lived with his daughter, Rose (Mrs. Dostal) until his death in Grand Forks in 1924 at age 77. Rose herself lived to that same age in 1952; and Blanche died on May 18, 1925 at age 39, having raised four children.

THE GIEZE HISTORY

My grandmother, Anna Stühr, was born on a farm near Hamburg, Germany. In 1871, she came to the United States with her aunt and uncle. Henry and Katy Stühr were only twenty and nineteen years old, and she was a child of seven. They came to this country in a small sailing vessel that took six weeks to make the trip.

Four years prior to this time her parents and baby brother came to this country. They left because the Prussians had invaded their country and were making all the young men enlist in the army for five years. In order to make this trip possible, my great-grandparents had to sell their farm and most of their possessions. They came to Boston, where my great-grandfather worked in a sugar beet factory long enough to raise money so they could go to Frontenac, Minnesota, where they lived until 1880.

Grandmother, with her aunt and uncle, came to New York in June, where they found work working for a truck farmer, picking straw-berries for ten dollars a month, and my grandmother worked without pay. Here they waited for a letter from my great-grandparents sending them money so they could come to Frontenac. But this letter never came. After working for two months they gave up and left for Minneapolis to make the trip. The day they were ready to leave, the farmer talked them into staying another day, because maybe the next day there would be a letter in the mail from Frontenac. Sure enough, the next day the letter was there, but as they found out later, the letter
had been there all the time, but the farmer had kept them, because they were good workers and worked for low wages.

Grandfather Giese left Hamburg, Germany, and came to the United States with his parents when he was seventeen years old. He also left because of the Prussian invasion. Grandfather came to this country a year later than Grandmother did. They landed in New York and went to Red Wing, Minnesota, where they worked in a lumbermill until the latter part of the year. Grandfather worked while they were at Red Wing. Grandfather and his mother came to Angus, Minnesota, where they each made a homestead of 160 acres. In order to make the claims, each claim had to have a building on it. Because of lack of money and material they built one shack on the dividing line, making half of it on Grandfather’s claim and the other half on his mother’s claim.

Grandmother’s parents were about the first people to make claims in that part of the country and this being so, all the strangers that passed by stopped at their home overnight for shelter and a meal. My grandfather and his mother happened to be two of the strangers that stopped and this is how my grandparents met. In 1882 they were married. When Grandmother was asked how she met Grandfather, she laughed and said, “In those days it wasn’t hard to meet people, because there wasn’t hardly anyone to meet”.

Grandmother left Frontenac, with her family, when she was a young girl. Her father had a homestead at Anglos, Minnesota. They loaded the house and furnishings along with lumber for building, they also loaded six cows and six horses in boxcars and left Frontenac in the spring of 1880, but when they arrived, it was still winter and the snow was deep on the prairie. There was one building on the land, which had belonged to someone else. There were no roads and no well. They melted snow for everything: drinking, cooking, washing clothes and for the stock.

In 1882, when Grandmother was married, Grandfather built a tar-paper shanty, had dug a well, traded off his oxen for a team of horses and owned a lumber wagon and two quarters of land.

The shanty had a bedroom, kitchen, a lean-to and a place for the stock built into the north side. This sheltered the living quarters in the winter and eliminated the possibility of getting lost going from the house to the barn in a blizzard. In winter the shanty was almost covered with snow, in fact one visitor said that he thought he would have driven over it if he hadn’t seen the stove pipe sticking out of the snow.

Very few trips to town were made in a year as it took from early morning to late at night. Grandfather usually went when it was necessary and did the trading. When any of the children needed shoes, a twig was cut the length of the foot and this piece of twig was taken along and inserted in the shoe with a little space at each end and that was the proper size. Many hardy any ready-made clothing was bought; Grandmother made practically everything the family wore. People couldn’t get to the stores so easily in those days so the stores came to them. Peddlers, as they were called, drove about the country, usually with one horse and a buggy that was partly covered to protect his wares from the weather. It was a big day when the peddler came with his big satchels. The children would sit around wide-eyed watching him unpack tablecloths, bedspreads, needles, and thread, etc. If it was meal time he would stop and eat with the family. If it was evening he’d stay the night. That was the custom, great distances and slow travel made that necessary. No matter how small the house, there was always room for the stranger.

The shanty was used for five years altogether; Grandfather bached there for two years. Three years after they were married, they built a five-room house, a granary and the next year a barn and a smokehouse. That house, built in 1885, is a part of the present house. It has been remodeled and added to, but the original five rooms are still there. Part of that barn was used to build the present machine shed, and the granary has been moved to a new foundation.

Grandmother didn’t go to town very often. One time in harvest time a piece of repair was needed and Grandmother went to Grand Forks, which was seventeen miles away, in a horse and buggy to get the repair. She took the oldest boy, John, who was seven, along to drive the horse and the youngest boy, Louis, three months, on her lap. They got to town all right and did what trading was necessary, ate lunch and rested a little and were ready to start for home when a thunder storm came up. They waited a while for it to clear, but when it didn’t they started anyway and when they were about five miles out the storm grew worse. They stopped for shelter and had supper and then started out again. They had just gone a few miles when they hit a flash of lightning and Grandfather came in the lumber wagon. It had rained so hard at that time that he was afraid they had all been drowned.

There was a school three miles away which was in session in the spring and fall, not during the coldest part of the winter. So the children could go at least part of a school term. There were church services about five miles away, at first in a farmer’s home and later in the little church they built, which was just recently moved into Euclid and remodeled. Grandmother thinks the farmer whose home they used probably got a little tired of having church in his house, because some of the congregation usually stayed not only for service but also for dinner.

I think one of the things that caused Grandmother a great deal of concern was cooking for the threshers. She had a large family always and did a lot of cooking the year around, but she kept them fed from day to day and they ate normally, but the threshing crews must have eaten only during threshing time to last until the next threshing season; they had enormous appetites. There was a whistle on the engine and when that blew at noon to stop work, the men would stop whatever they were doing and run to the kitchen, not stopping to wash or anything, but rush to the table, sit down and start to eat. Many years after Grandmother had left the farm and was living in town, she still dreamed of not being able to get the meal on the table in time for fifteen hungry men barging in.

There were ten children and as they grew up provision was made for them to go to school in town. Grandfather would rent a house in town for those going to school and the oldest girl kept house for those going to school.

When the boys had taken over the farming, Grandfather and Grandmother would spend the winters in town and then in 1916 they left the farm and lived in town all the year around.

Grandmother had three brothers and two sisters. One of her brothers owned a grocery and clothing store at Euclid, Minnesota. Her two other brothers became doctors. Dr. Henry Sturh was a surgeon in Minneapolis until the time of his death. Dr. John Sturh is a practicing physician at Stillwater, Minnesota.

All of the ten children are living except Dr. Edward Giese who died in 1929. My father and two of his brothers are farmers. Two sons are in the hardware business and one an attorney in East Grand Forks. One daughter makes her home with Grandmother and one lives at Mobridge, South Dakota. The other one is living at Mahnomen, Minnesota.

My grandfather died in the fall of 1947 at the age of 92. My grandmother is still living and able to give me this information.

Ruth Adair Giese
Age 14

MRS. ED HUDERLE SR.

My parents, John and Mary Zavoral, were both born in Bohemia, Europe. Mother was born in a small town of Tabor in 1868, and dad in New Prague in 1865. They came by ship to the United States in 1886 and were married in Hutchinson, Minnesota, in 1887. Like other pioneers, they came with oxen to a homestead in Tabor township, Polk county, where they farmed for several years. In March of 1895, Dad sold the farm, bought a team of horses and set out for Thief River Falls, Minnesota, with four children, the youngest four years old.

Homes at that time were not very close together, as Thief River Falls was just beginning. We lived on Duluth Avenue with no electricity until 1918, water was brought in with pails.

Dad worked at the sawmill for many years. At that time it was permissible to keep a cow and chickens, and even hogs. We also raised a large garden. We never lacked food or warm clothing. School was only a short distance away, so we had an opportunity for an education at very little cost. Sidewalks in the city were wooden. Streets were dirt and muddy if it rained.
Ditches were for drainage of water off the streets. How well we as children remember the ice man and the delivery boys with horse carts bringing ice, groceries and meat to the homes.

To this union nine children were born, namely: John of St. Paul, deceased: Rudolph of Spokane, Washington, deceased; William of Gryga; Joseph of Watertown, South Dakota, deceased; Mamie Huderle of Warren; Tillie Morben of Thief River Falls; Alice Kobetshy of East Grand Forks, Minnesota; and James of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, deceased. A twin, William, was born in Tabor and died in infancy. Mother died in 1931 and Father in 1936.

THE KERESTES FARM AND GENEALOGY

Thomas Kerestes (1849-1904) one of the very early settlers in the Tabor area came to this country in 1877 and worked and saved to pay for passage for a childhood sweetheart in Slovakia. He married Anna Stinar (1855-1922) on October 11, 1880 in a Lutheran parsonage in Minneapolis shortly after her arrival. They worked and saved to be able to buy the things necessary to start farming. In the spring of 1884 they traveled by railroad from Minneapolis to the Angus siding and thence on to friends in the Tabor area. The railroad car they traveled in was called an “immigrant car” it was quite large and partitioned. In the larger part Tom had the lumber to help build the house, and barn, also packed in were the wagons and plow and other implements for farming as well as one team of horses, one cow, two pigs and chickens. In the smaller section was all the household goods. They lived in this part for three days of traveling from Minneapolis to Angus. Thomas Kerestes became an American citizen by taking out the required papers. Active in church he was president of the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church which was started on the Andro Palya Farm.


Mary Palaya Kerestes’ father Andrew (Americanized from Andro) Palya was also a Slovak immigrant born in Slovakia in 1857 and came to this country in 1875. He worked for two years in the Pennsylvania coal mines, then went to work for the huge Irwin Farms near Minneapolis. During the four years he was saving his money he met Joe and John Bren and it was through them he heard of the land near their farm which was also near the settlement called “Osvita”. This was later changed to the town of Tabor. Meanwhile while he continued to work for the Irwin farms as a foreman he sent passage money to Europe and married Anna Baloc (1866-1959) in Minneapolis in 1883. They moved to a farm in Tabor that same year. They also took the train to Angus and hitched their horses to the wagon loaded with all their belongings which consisted of two cows, eight chickens, one rooster, one pig, a plow, a table and chairs, a bed, a stove, yellow building paper, and some lumber to help build their cabin. As there were no roads the travel was tough and in the lower areas the water was reaching into the wagon box. There was water as far as they could see but somehow they managed to reach their destination, the Bren farm, where they were welcomed and stayed while their house was being built. Their house had a prairie grass-thatched roof and straw was used for insulation between the outside walls and the yellow paper and boards. This seemed to be the pattern of building of the other settlers in the area. The first year they broke twenty acres that yielded 500 bushels of wheat and another five acres that yielded 200 bushels of oats. The land in the Tabor area was all prairie. The closest river was the Big Red River of the North, which was approximately seven to eight miles west. All the logs for the building had to be cut, trimmed, and hauled from the river. This was a slow and laborious task which was made easier by co-operation. When a new settler came into the area all pitched in and helped. All the firewood for the winter also had to be cut and hauled in similar fashion.

The first year they had to borrow money to live and also to buy necessary machinery and horses to break up more acreage. The land was good and rewards were great and the Palya family prospered and began to grow. Andrew also encouraged relatives and friends to come and settle and buy the rich farming land in the area. He helped them with arrangements whenever possible. He was also very concerned about the few Lutheran families and was instrumental in establishing the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran congregation, first in his own home and then by donating land when the first church was built in 1897. He was always ready to help and throughout the years showed deep concern for the spiritual welfare of the community. He donated the large bell which is still in use on the same plot of land, but is in its third church. Land for the cemetery, was also given by him.

As Mr. Andrew Palya prospered, he organized and invested in most all community endeavors such as creameries, the Co-op elevators, Telephone Company and Gas and Oil Companies in Tabor, Angus and East Grand Forks. He purchased and ran the Tabor Mercantile Company store which also sold farm implements and he was the Postmaster. He also opened the Tabor State Bank and operated it until the crash. The Bank’s cement vault is still in evidence as you drive through Tabor.

Nine children blessed the union of Anna Baloc and Andro (Andrew) Palya: namely; Andrew, Sophie, Mary, Anna, John, Helen, Susie, Albert, and Lillian.

The Kerestes farm is still in the family and at present is owned by Mrs. George (Mary) Kerestes.

GERALD MARUSKA

Gerald Maruska is the third generation family to live on this farm in Tabor township. Gerald’s grandfather, William Maruska, was born near Alexandria, Minnesota, and came to Tabor township in his boyhood days. He married Mary Kuncel in 1906. She came from Prague, Czechoslovakia at the age of sixteen, worked in New York for a while and then came to Tabor township. They were the parents of Hedvicka (Vickie) and Ervin. They moved to this farm of Radman, Minnesota, which had been farming the land. They have three boys: Alan, Todd, and Dean. Hopefully one of these boys will farm to make it the fourth generation. They are members of the Warren school district, have children in 4-H, and attend Zion Lutheran
The farm was diversified as were most of the farms then. An interesting sidelight was the community spirit which prevailed. Most of the farms raised turkeys and when it came time to market the turkeys, all of the neighbors would join together for a "picking bee". The men butchered the fowl in the barns, picked off the rough feathers and the women finished cleaning and packing the turkeys which were shipped in barrels to New York or Boston. My dad also operated a threshing rig which served eight farms. This was a busy and fascinating time of the year for all the family. Quite often there would be twenty men around threshing and somehow my mother, with very little outside help, fed them all. But in spite of all the hard work and long hours, I do remember that we always had time before chores to listen to the radio programs, “Little Orphan Annie” and “Amos and Andy”. In 1941, I married Ivy McVeety, daughter of Archie and Bertha McVeyet of Mallory, Minnesota. My parents purchased and moved to a farm three and one-half miles east of here, known as the “Campion Place.” They lived there until my brother, Harvey Dale, married Harriet Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Olson of Viking. They retired at 742 North 5th Street, in Warren. Their greatest pleasure was coming back to the farm to play with their grandchildren and repair their toys. Dad would be in his glory if he could drive the tractor or some other implement and continued doing so until his stroke in 1965. He died November 23 of that year, at the age of 80.

As for myself, farming has been my life and I thoroughly enjoy it. As was the pattern of the times when we first started farming we were diversified. We raised 2000 turkeys, 40 Gurney cows, 100 hogs and 1000 laying hens plus farming 480 acres. Gradually the livestock and poultry enterprises gave way to straight grain farming. Ivy and I raised four children: Sharon (Mrs. Peter Knott) in Avon, Ohio. They have two children: Kevin and Jennifer. Peter is an attorney with the Cleveland Trust Company. Sharon is a registered nurse. Lynn married Jon McCullom. Lynn is an analyst for Control Data. Jon teaches in Richfield. Sondra (Mrs. Charles Wemigier) lives in Minneapolis. Her husband is in Cancer Research at General Valley Hospital and Sondra teaches diabetic control at Metropolitan Hospital. Mark teaches music at Arthur, North Dakota and is engaged to Debbie Miller, a registered nurse. The saddest moment of my life came when Ivy passed away, July 2, 1970, dying of cancer. After living alone for a year and a half, I was married to Elaine Peterson, the daughter of Herb and Anna Johnston. She had been a widow for several years. We have much in common and our eight children have great times together.

ELMER MISKA

Elmer and Junice Miska, both natives of Polk county, live on the family farm in Tabor township. Anne, a daughter, is a student at Warren High School. She is active in the Tabor 4-H Club besides numerous school activities.

Elmer made his career serving in the air branch of the United States Navy, having joined shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack. We lived many places and moved many times throughout the United States and overseas. We managed to survive World War II, the Korean War, part of Vietnam War, and the ever-present “Cold War”. Elmer is now employed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota.

Frank J. Miska, Jr., Elmer’s father, came to this farm in 1893 as a homesteader. He made it his home the rest of his life. He was born at Chrudim, Bohemia, and came to the United States when he was four years old. He was the second child in a family of eight children. Before he came to Tabor, he lived with his parents, Annie (Boska) and Frank Miska, Sr., at Silver Lake, in McLeod county, Minnesota, where they settled and farmed when they came to America.

Mary Anne Miska, Elmer’s mother, was born at Zelichovice, Bohemia. Her parents were Mary (Hyps) and James Dusek. She had two sisters who died when they were young children. Her father, being a carpenter, worked on the construction of buildings in Vienna and Prague. The family came to the United States when she was five years old and they settled near Denison, Texas, where she grew up. I remember her telling

Five teams of horses on E. Johnston's Aultman Taylor on threshing machine.
how, as children, they would work in the fields hoeing cotton. They wore old-fashioned sunbonnets as protection from the hot Texas sun. When she was about eighteen or nineteen years of age, her mother died. Then she, with her father, moved to Tabor.

Elmer’s parents and grandparents all came from Bohemia, which at that time was part of the great Austrian Empire. Frank, Jr. and Mary Miska were married at Tabor in 1902. They made this farm their home. They raised small grains, and a variety of animals and poultry — and had real horses for horsepower.

In 1905 there was a land rush into Canada, so they rented out this farm and moved to a homestead area west of Elbow, Saskatchewan near a small town called Tullisville, Saskatchewan. On the first trip, Frank went alone and staked a claim. Then he came back and brought his wife, his infant son, Charles, and his father-in-law. They hired a railroad box car to move their household goods, animals, supplies and enough lumber to build a house. At first he built a sod house, then later the frame house was built. They had a team of four oxen for field work — no horses. They had plenty of hardships in this new unsettled area. It was a long slow drive to a trading center. The Saskatchewan River, with no bridge, had to be crossed via a flat-raft ferry on each trip to Elbow. Their stay in Canada involved the approximate years of 1905-1909. Then they moved back to Tabor.

Frank J. and Mary Miska had three children: Charles (deceased): the oldest, who married Elizabeth Miller. They had a son, John (also deceased). Elizabeth lives at Michigan, North Dakota. Helen, who moved to Idaho when she married Joe Kulik. They have a son, Robert, who is married and has two children; and a daughter, Elizabeth, who is married and has three children. All live in Idaho. Elmer who married Junice Paulson and have a daughter, Anne, who is a student at the Warren High School. All live on the family farm at Tabor.

**WILLIAM MISKA**

In 1880, Frank Joe Miska Sr., his wife, Anna (Bouska) and three children emigrated from Heinska, Czechoslovakia to Silver Lake, Minnesota, where they homesteaded. In 1911, Frank Miska left his family in Silver Lake, moved to Angus, Minne-
Kyle and Ronda. Son Philip is employed as an accountant for a Grand Forks brokerage firm. He received his Bachelor's degree in business from the University of North Dakota in 1970. Upon graduation he served three years of active duty in the military, including one year of foreign service in Vietnam. After service he completed one year of post-graduate work, also at the University of North Dakota.

The present Olson farm was formerly owned by Martha's parents, Mike and Agnes Ovsak, who purchased it in 1927. In 1929, they moved to the farmsite from Tabor, Minnesota, where they lived and farmed since 1911. Mike Ovsak farmed his father's farmsite of 320 acres of land in Tabor township. Mike and Agnes were married in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, by Father Klinkhammer on November 15, 1911. They had three daughters: Grace Fillipi (now deceased), Martha Olson, and Helen Edgar of Warren, Minnesota.

Mike Ovsak was one of the sons of Thomas Ovsak and Mary Casper. Others in this family included Thomas Jr., John, Steve, Barbara and Rose (all deceased), Mary Maruska of Warren, Minnesota, and Anna Malm of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Agnes Ovsak (Nee Honk) was the daughter of John Honk and Antonia Varek. Others in this family were John, Frank, Mary Novak, Francis Dvorak, Hannah Knutson, Jennie Ahrens (all deceased), and Lillian Kocisko now living at the Good Samaritan Center in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

Paul was born in Alvarado, Minnesota, to Emil Olson and Emma Olson (nee Berg). Other children of this family included Magnus, Walfred, and Albin (all deceased); Edith Lind of Oslo, Minnesota; Ruth Glacier of Blackduck, Minnesota; Selma Chinlund and Dagneny Morrison both of Galesburg, Illinois; Elsie Glinski of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Berniece Swanson of Paxton, Illinois. Another daughter, Elvera, died at six months.

Paul's father, Emil Olson, was born in Varmland Nyskogaasen, Sweden in 1876. He immigrated to America in 1903 and settled near Alvarado, Minnesota, at age 27. His wife, Emma, then was 23, their son, Magnus, was two, and Walfred was an infant.

Emil had two brothers, Gustav and Wilhelm Olson. His father, who was born in 1837, was Olaf Henriksson of Pillersasen, Sweden. Olaf's father, born in 1798, was Henrik Mattson of Diger Berget, Sweden. Henrik's ancestors were the Matts Nelsons of Karlberg, Sweden. Matts was born in 1757. The ancestors of Paul's mother also date back to 1757. Mother Emma was from a family of seven children: Kerstin, Anders, Lars, Olaf, Anna and Daniel, all born in Sweden.

JOSEPH AND HELEN VANYO

The Vanyo ancestry can be traced back to the town of Janovik in Czechoslovakia, which is in the eastern part near the Russian border. The name as written on documents dated 1891 was spelled "Vanio". Later the "v" was substituted for the "W" and the "y" for "I," thus resulting in Vanyo.

Joseph Vanyo at the age of seventeen with a companion, John Sedlacek, left his home in Janovik on March 1, 1884 and arrived in New York on March 16, 1884. He settled in Shamo-
thank them for the heritage that is ours in Polk County, Minnesota.

VAVRINA HISTORY

The Vavrina family had its origin near Caslav, Czechoslovakia, some fifty miles southeast of Prague. Immigrating to the United States were John and his wife, Marie, both born in 1849, together with their five children. Five additional children were born to them in this country. They were farmers, and with the funds obtained from the sale of their holdings in Bohemia they purchased 80 acres of farmland in southern Wisconsin where they spent sixteen years until 1900 near relatives, in a community of Czechoslovakian and German settlers. In that year they loaded their farm implements and livestock into a railroad freight car and shipped it to Angus, Minnesota, accompanied by two sons, John, age 21 and Louis, age 19, who fed and watered the livestock on the way.

Tabor, the community just west of Angus, was selected as their new home by another son, Vaclav, age 27, a young minister of the Gospel, who discovered it while serving its Presbyterian church as a seminary student. He was aided in his selection by his brother, Joseph, age 29, just married to Anna Novak, a neighbor to the Vavrina’s Wisconsin home. The advantages considered in this move were level farm land, absence of rocky soil, and less expensive acreage. Sons, Joseph and John and the father each purchased 160 acres, adjoining each other, one and two miles south of Tabor. On January 15, 1901, while returning with a wagon load of firewood from the Red River timberland the father, trying to stop and visit an acquaintance on a farm along the way, got lost in the storm and froze all his fingers, ears, and toes. Eighteen days later all frozen parts were cut off by doctors in Warren. He died five years later of a lung ailment at age 57. His widow continued farming with the aid of her son, Louis, surviving until the age of 88. An enthusiastic devout leader in church work, and a strong proponent of education in an age when farm families were not in the habit of following educational interests. Grandma Vavrina provided the opportunity for some advanced schooling for eight of her ten children. All five daughters graduated from high school, three becoming school teachers and Katie a missionary. Katie died of tuberculosis in 1909, at the age of 33. Son Louis was sent to attend an agricultural school in St. Paul in January 1905. Frank went to attend the university in Huron, South Dakota in September 1907 at age 20. Vaclav, the preacher, received his education in colleges in Ohio, and in St. Louis, where he also served a church of six years until 1909. Vaclav then served for ten years in churches in Redig and Buffalo, South Dakota and also acquired some land in that area. He was also instrumental in helping the Redig community to build their first church, which is still in use. In 1920, he accepted a position to serve as director to supervise the operation of the YMCA organization and its chain of establishments throughout Czechoslovakia, where he continued until his retirement in 1933. However, soon afterwards, he accepted preaching assignments in Holdenville, Minnesota, and in Granger, Texas, until his death in 1950 at age 77.

Louis Vavrina spent much of his life as an elevator grain buyer in places like Angus and O’Meara nearby, but he also rented out several farms which he owned, and even devoted some years to the business of poultry raising. Frank entered the ranching business in Montana and later in Wyoming. He died in East Grand Forks in 1953 at age 66. Brothers Joseph and John owning 560 acres, devoted themselves to farming in the Tabor Community. However, Joseph at age 49 moved to Grand Forks in 1920, into semi-retirement with minor truck farming until his death in 1933 at age 63. His property passed to Milada, his daughter and only child, now married in the Twin Cities, who was formerly professor of physical education at the University of North Dakota. Her husband is business manager of a college in St. Paul.

Frank remarried after the death of his first wife but left no children. Louis had a son, Richard, and a daughter, Ruth, both graduates of the University of North Dakota. Richard died in a military plane crash as a test pilot during World War II, and Ruth is married to Dr. C. C. Rand in Grafton, North Dakota. John has six children including twin sisters who are instructors in the Bloomington, Minneapolis, school system for the past many years. William is a farmer on the southeast edge of the Tabor community: Robert is a retired farmer now in East Grand Forks.

Theodore has served as a high school instructor in Fargo, North Dakota for 35 years, studied a year on a scholarship at Prague University in Czechoslovakia, taught a year in a high school in England in 1952 on a Senator Fulbright teachers’ Exchange, a summer session on another scholarship at the University of Paris, France in 1946, and at the University of Colorado in 1959 on a federal grant, and has published articles on his travels in Egypt, Persia, the Holy Land, Greece, Turkey, Russia, Spain and the rest of Europe and north Africa. Sister Olga is the widow of John Solits, a farmer near East Grand Forks.

Of the Vavrina sisters, in 1907 Barbara married Philip Novak, a country schoolmate of hers, and lived out her life with him in that same community in Cobb, Wisconsin. One of her sisters, Milan, served for years as professor at the University of Illinois, and a daughter, Helen, as professor at a college in New York State. Of the other sisters, Mary is the widow of George Maruska; Emily, the widow of Edward Filipi; and Helen, of Jack Filipi; all Tabor farmers. Their children will be included in the write-up of the Maruska and Filipi families.

JOHN AND MARY VAVRINA

John Vavrina was born in Brezi, Czechoslovakia. He had two sisters. He married Marie Bahaty from Brezi. They farmed a small plot of land on the outskirts of the village. Five of their ten children were born there. Due to extreme poverty the family had to share many of the necessities of life. For instance, attending church was mandatory, but because there was not enough money to buy each of the children decent outer garments, they worked out a scheme whereby on the way home from the first church service part of the family returning would exchange garments with those going to church that they all looked respectable.

Apparently the social life of the village caused John to indulge in alcoholic beverages and his wife decided that the
George and Mary (Vavrina) Maruska  
40th Anniversary.

best solution was to leave for America. They borrowed money and moved to a little 80-acre farm near Cobb, Wisconsin. It was at Cobb, Wisconsin, that the other five children were born. One of their sons, Vaclav decided to go into the ministry and after graduating from Oberlin Seminary in Ohio, was sent as a minister to Tabor, Minnesota. He was so impressed with the potential of this flat country, that he persuaded his father and mother to move there. Those who pioneered here were rugged individuals. For fuel they had to drive ten miles to the Red River for wood. On one such trip in the winter John froze his fingers and had to have three of them amputated. Mary Vavrina was definitely the guiding and inspiring force in the family. Even in that early part of the history of the community she managed to get a high school education for her children. Several of the daughters became school teachers and one son, a minister.

A brief summary of the children follows: Joseph Vavrina was born in Brezi, Czechoslovakia and immigrated to the States in 1884. He married Anna Novak and moved to Tabor in 1900, where he farmed. They had one daughter, Malada, who is married to Garth White. Joseph farmed near Tabor and in the absence of a minister often conducted church services at the Presbyterian Church. Vaclav Vavrina was born in Brezi and also came here in 1884. He married Josephine Pipal from Blue River, Wisconsin. They adopted a little girl, Helen, who eventually married Maurice Warble. Vaclav entered the ministry, serving in St. Louis and later in Redig, South Dakota, where he filed a government claim on a piece of land. He traveled in Czechoslovakia, working for the Christian Temperance Union. Later he served churches in Holdingsford, Minnesota and Anoka. After his wife passed away, he served a Moravian church in Granger, Texas, where he passed away.

Katherine Vavrina was also born in Brezi and came to Cobb with her parents. She attended a training school for missionaries in Cleveland and was sent to St. Louis, where she served as a parish worker. In 1908 she contracted tuberculosis and died of that shortly.

John Vavrina, Jr. was born in Czechoslovakia, immigrated to Cobb, Wisconsin and later to Tabor, Minnesota. He took up a claim in Canada, and later married Bessie Arnold. They raised four children: Theodore, Robert, William and Olga. John managed the elevator at Sherack and also farmed. After his wife passed away, he married Frances Pokorny of Silver Lake and to that union were born Eileen and Ellen.

Louis Vavrina came to America at the age of three from Czechoslovakia. He came to Tabor in 1900 with his parents in a railroad car, in which were their domestic cattle and machinery. Louis married Josie Filipi and they had two children: Richard and Ruth. Louis managed an elevator at Angus and Keywest and farmed near Tabor.

Barbara Vavrina was born in Czechoslovakia and moved to Cobb, later to Tabor, Minnesota, taught school in the Tabor area and later married Fredrick Novak from Cobb, Wisconsin, where they settled. They had five children: Milan, Helen, Pauline, David and Daniel.

Frank Vavrina attended school in Warren and college in Huron, South Dakota. He was in the restaurant business and had a ranch near Miles City, Montana. He married Agnes Menger. They had one child: Mary.

Mary Vavrina, my mother, was born near Cobb, Wisconsin, where she lived until she was ten years old, when her parents moved to Tabor. She attended school south of Tabor during the five months each year that it was in session. Later she attended school in Warren, where she worked for her board and room at Ernest Brown's, a taxidermist. In the summer she drove three horses on a binder for her brother, Louis. She had typhoid fever but graduated as salutatorian in 1908. She attended summer school and began teaching school in the same school she attended as a child. Later she taught at the Eggen school eight miles from her home and rode a bicycle home on weekends. In 1912 she taught at the Beadmor school six miles north and two miles west of Tabor. In 1914 she stayed with her sister at Cobb and that fall attended Iowa State Teachers College. Later she taught the Slusar School. The following year her brother persuaded her to file a claim at Redig, South Dakota, where Vaclav served a church. She taught there two years and still owns the 160 acres which she earned by claiming it and residing there. In 1917 she married George Maruska and together they raised two sons, Morris and Harvey Dale. My mother was active in community clubs, directed plays and taught music. After moving to Warren in 1946, she was active in the Grace Methodist Church and served all of the offices of the women's organizations. After the death of Dad, she lived alone and loved her flowers and garden. In 1975 she became ill and decided to sell her home to her granddaughter and move to the Good Samaritan Home, which she thoroughly enjoys.

Emily Vavrina was born near Cobb, Wisconsin, and moved to Tabor in 1900. She taught school districts 119 and 119. She married Edward Filipi. They had four children: Lydia, Dallas, Ivadelle and Arne. Her husband and daughter, Lydia, passed away. Emily was Sunday school superintendent at Mendenhall for seventeen years. She now writes poems and inspirational notes to many shut-ins.

Helen Vavrina was born in 1897 in Cobb, Wisconsin. She attended high school at Warren and taught school in Tabor and Angus. She married Jaroslav Filipi in 1921. They had three children: Kathryn, Huntley and Phyllis.

WAVER AND TRAVNICEK

This is going to be a history of my family and conditions that existed at that time, long ago. I do remember many old days! I was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Travnicky in 1894. My mother's maiden name was Ann Wavra. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wavra, well-known pioneers, who opened their home to many new comers and shared many meals and a home with whoever came later. Yes, Grandma and Grandpa Wavra were really and truly old timers. Their home was blessed to welcome those who came and wanted to work or stay a few days. They never asked anyone to leave hungry. He had a big steam threshing rig and had eighteen or so bundle teams, besides men who ran the rig. Some of these were his sons for he had seven.

Frank was born in Chicago, at the time that Chicago burned down and only a few houses were left. I am not sure, but it must have happened in 1892 or so. Grandma Wavra, while there, sewed men's work shirts by hand, as there were no sewing machines. She often talked about it.

Their sons: Frank, John, Jim, Joe, Albert, William, and Charlie came to New Prague, Minnesota, and from there to Tabor, Minnesota, where they made their home. They raised six boys and three girls. My mother was one of their girls and her sister married Frank Filipi. She died with her fourth child as a young lady of 28 or 30 years of age. My Grandma Wavra was kind and always ready to give something to eat or offer you a night's rest. There were no roads, and it was far to town to get groceries, not like now.

Both my grandparents, Wavras and Travnicks, came from Czechoslovakia, Prague. Their journey was a long one, and lasted seven weeks. It took courage to come to America.

Grandpa Wavra and his boys hired men to haul many loads of lumber for the Tabor Catholic Church, for he had many teams of horses and lots of land. My other grandparents were: James Travnicky, who married to Mary Schmisek; they, too,
John S. Kotschevar received his early education principally in Douglas County, but finished his schooling with a course at St. John's College, in Stearns County, leaving that institution in 1886.

On the second of November, 1887, he and his father established a general store at Brandon, where he lived for several years. The store was called the General Merchants of Brandon. It was one of the leading businesses of the place. Later he became engaged in the agricultural implement business and bought wheat for O. N. Ostrom, of Minneapolis.

His father, Mathias Kotschevar, also had a general store at Millerville, and dealt extensively in stock.

The Kotschevars (the word means "from Kothe") came to this country in 1869 with many other of their Austrian countrymen with the famous Father Frederick Baraga, who later became Bishop Baraga, the first bishop of Marquette, Michigan. The Kraniers, as they were called, started some of the oldest families in the St. Cloud diocese. Their culture went back to the time of the Caesars, when their country was known as Illyrium, in the Roman Empire.

John S. Kotschevar was married on October 18, 1887, to Anna Movern. She was born at Cold Springs in Stearns county, Minnesota, but was reared and educated at Millville, Douglas county. They lived in Brandon for twenty years. They moved to a farm in Polk county, in the Spring of 1904. The farm is located fifteen miles southeast of Crookston, on Highway 2 near Marcusy Corner. They lived there for thirty-three years.

Life on a farm in the early 1900's wasn't one of leisure. They milked the cows by hand, plowed the fields, planted and harvested the crops by horsepower. By working hard, John and Anna Kotschevar were able to keep themselves and their family clothed, fed, and comfortable. Besides a grain crop, John Kotschevar raised a garden, sheep, cattle, and chickens on the 160 acres granted to him by the government to homestead.

Later on, he was unable to rely solely on the farm for the family living, so he drove a school bus. It was a hard way of life back in the early 1900's, but with self discipline and a lot of hard work, John and Anna Kotschevar raised a family they were proud of.

During the time they lived in Brandon and Polk county, their nine children were born. Seven grew to adulthood in Polk county. Their family included Mary Anne, who married Francis Henry Morrissey; John Jr., who died in infancy; Matthew Joseph, who married Edna Westland; Conrad Jacob, who lived in Crookston until his death in March of 1974; Clara, who died in infancy; Adeline Margaret, who married Bernard Duffy; Martha Ann who married Alvin Palmer; Lenore Barbara, who married Emery Palmer; Julia Agnes whose first husband, Ernest Raymond, died in 1933. She later married Bernard Kuiper, who survives her.

Three members of the Kotschevar family, Mrs. Mathias Kotschevar, Mrs. Bernard (Adeline) Kotschevar Duffy; and Mrs. Emery (Lenore) Kotschevar Palmer live in Crookston.

Eight of the twenty-eight Kotschevar grandchildren and twenty-four of the fifty-two great-grandchildren are also living in Polk county.

Tynsid Township History

The history of Tynsid township is very vague; but after scanning old records and histories of various settlers and also referring to an old History and Biographical Book of Polk County, 1916, I managed to find the following facts.

This township was in the making sometime before 1877. At that time the land had not been surveyed, so those who came had wide open spaces in which to stretch their arms; therefore, these "squatters" as they were called agreed among themselves as to boundaries and sought to secure a large portion of timber along the river bends. This made ideal building places.

The settlers came from Telemarken, Osterdalen and Tynset in Norway and from Ireland. Many of these migrated from Houston, Freeborn and Ottertail counties. The names of these families at that time (taken from the biography and township books) were Patrick Quigley, Matthew Martin, Thomas Logan, John Logan, Peter Gannaw, Barney Haggerty, Mike Quirk from Ireland. Ole Johnson, Erick Jordahl, Hans Koppong, Helge Thoreson, Eust, Leet, Ole and Ingebreth Fosback, Ole Bruan, August Aas, Iver Lund, Peter Boukind, Kornhus, Hansson, Bjornsen, "Valo", Halvor Luns, Ingebreth Vinjeng, Elling Dokken, Arne Ness, Hans Olson, Ole, Lars, John and Louis Larson, K. D. and Lars Gulseth.